

**Grace Lutheran Church**  
1300 Kishwaukee Valley Road  
Woodstock, IL 60098  
www.gracewoodstock.org



**July 26, 2026; 9:00 A.M.**  
**9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**



### **GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

#### **OPENING MUSIC**

Chorale Prelude on "Schmucke Dich"

J. S. Bach (Public Domain)

*Please stand as you are able.*

#### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
whose compassion endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin to God.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Compassionate God,  
**we confess to you all our sins.**  
**Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.**  
**In your mercy, call us back to you.**  
**Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.**  
**Restore us to dwell in your peace.**  
**In Christ's name we pray, Amen.**

Jesus says, "Come to me,  
all you who are weary  
and are carrying heavy burdens,  
and I will give you rest."  
In the name of God,  
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
your sins are forgiven.  
Rest in God's love. **Amen.**

#### **OPENING HYMN**

**"Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty"**

ELW 533 (Public Domain)

*Please be seated.*

## **WELCOME**

### **GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### **WORD**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

### **FIRST READING:**

**1 Kings 3:5-12**, *Pew Bible, Old Testament*, pg. 306

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM:**

**Psalms 119:129-136**

*The Psalms are found in the ELW, in the front section, beginning on page 339. We will read them responsively together.*

### **SECOND READING:**

**Romans 8:26-39**, *Pew Bible, New Testament*, pg. 158

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



### **GOSPEL**

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52**, *Pew Bible, New Testament*, pg. 14

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

### **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

*Children are invited to come forward during the message.*

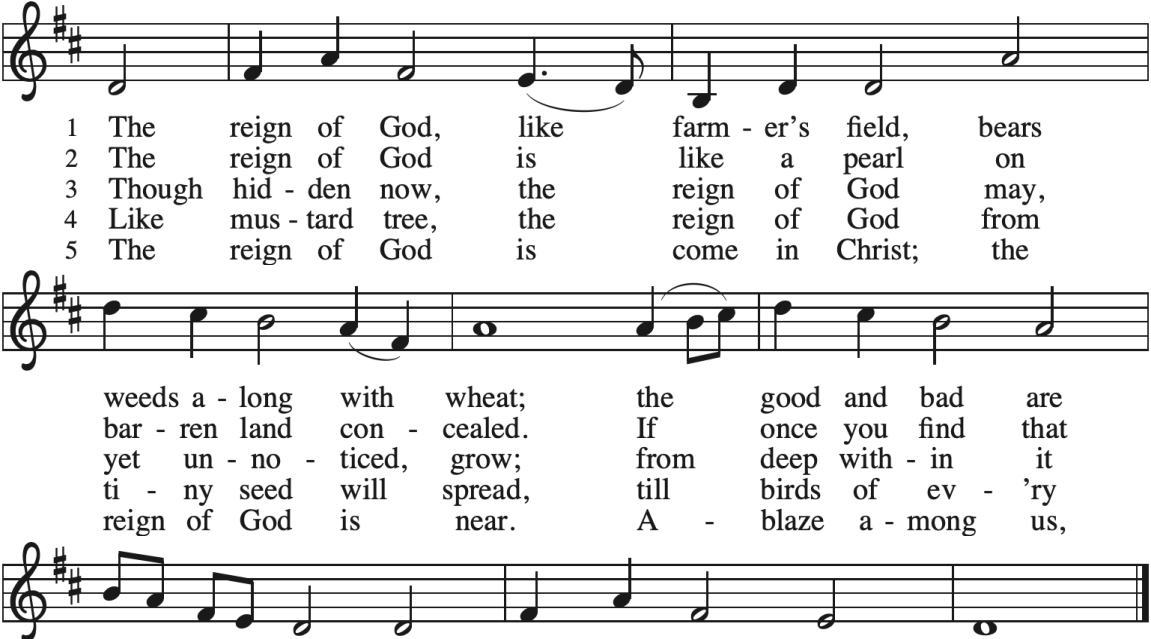
### **SERMON**

Please stand as you are able.

## HYMN OF THE DAY

### “The Reign of God, Like Farmer’s Field”

ACS 952 (One License)



1 The reign of God, like farm - er's field, bears  
2 The reign of God is like a pearl on  
3 Though hid - den now, the reign of God may,  
4 Like mus - tard tree, the reign of God from  
5 The reign of God is come in Christ; the

weeds a - long with wheat; the good and bad are  
bar - ren land con - cealed. If once you find that  
yet un - no - ticed, grow; from deep with - in it  
ti - ny seed will spread, till birds of ev - 'ry  
reign of God is near. A - blaze a - mong us,

in - ter - twined till har - vest is com - plete.  
pre - cious pearl, go out and buy that field.  
ris - es up, like yeast in swell - ing dough.  
feath - er come to nest, and there be fed.  
kin - dling hearts, the reign of God is here!

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

ELW pg. 105

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. *A brief silence.*

God our wisdom and our song, we pray for bishops, candidacy committees, those preparing for seminary, those awaiting call as deacons or pastors, and all who seek to lead your disciples in any way. We pray for Micah Bergstrom and Elessar Lovejoy as they go to Lutherdale this week. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our breath and our heartbeat, help us to recognize signs of your presence among us. Protect and support diverse ecosystems, from national parks to family farms, from ranches to wild places. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our peace and our guide, help civic leaders hear all their peoples' stories with compassion and curiosity, and remind us of your love from which we can never be separated. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our intercessor and our lawgiver, dismantle the barriers to care and recognition of all who live with chronic illness, mobility struggles, pain, and uncertainty, especially those we now name aloud or in the silence of our hearts \_\_\_\_\_. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our redeemer, may we trust your love above and beyond all else that distracts, annoys, frightens, exhausts, or divides us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God who seeks, finds, and saves, for our community's part in the ongoing gift of creation, and for the riches of faith and hope which came before, we give you thanks. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

## PEACE

*After praying for the whole world, we receive and extend to one another the gift of Christ's peace. We invite you to share a sign of God's peace with one another.*

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

## MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

*Please be seated.*

## OFFERING PRAYER

Loving God,  
we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.  
Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,  
so that all creation can taste your abundance.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus,  
through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## OFFERING

*Thank you for your generous offerings and commitment to Grace's mission and ministry. You are invited to place your financial offerings in the offering plate. Additional ways to give include mailing your offering to the church office, or by giving online: by texting the amount you would like to give to 877-698-3604, through the Vanco Mobile App, or online at Grace's website (Use the QR code provided). You are also invited to call the church office to learn more about the automatic withdrawal Electronic Giving Program.*



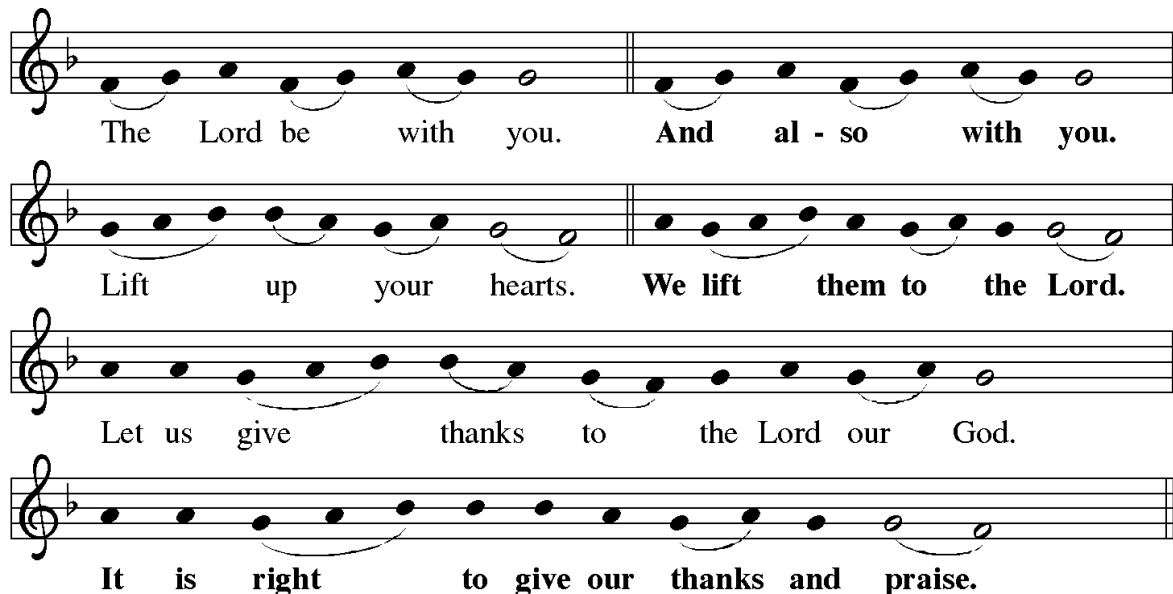
## OFFERING HYMN

**"Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring"**

ELW 691 (One License)

*Please stand as you are able.*

## GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, . . . and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and  
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

### LORD'S PRAYER

ELW pg.112, left column

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*All are welcome at the Lord's table.*

Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

*Please be seated. The congregation will then commune, beginning with the front pews, you are invited to come forward to receive the bread and wine or juice. Extend your hands to receive a wafer from the pastor or communion assistant. Then please pick up one cup from the trays (red wine or white grape juice), and then place the empty cup in a tray on the front pew before returning to your seat. Gluten free elements are available upon request. If you would like the communion elements to be brought to you, please notify an usher.*

## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

### "Lamb of God"

WOV pg. 39 (Augsburg Fortress)

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## “Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness”

ELW 488 (One License)

*Please stand as you are able.*

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Compassionate God,  
**through the gifts of bread and wine**  
**our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.**  
**Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,**  
**may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.**  
**We ask this in the name of Jesus,**  
**through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.**  
**Amen.**

### COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
**Amen.**

### SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

### CAMP BLESSING AND SENDING

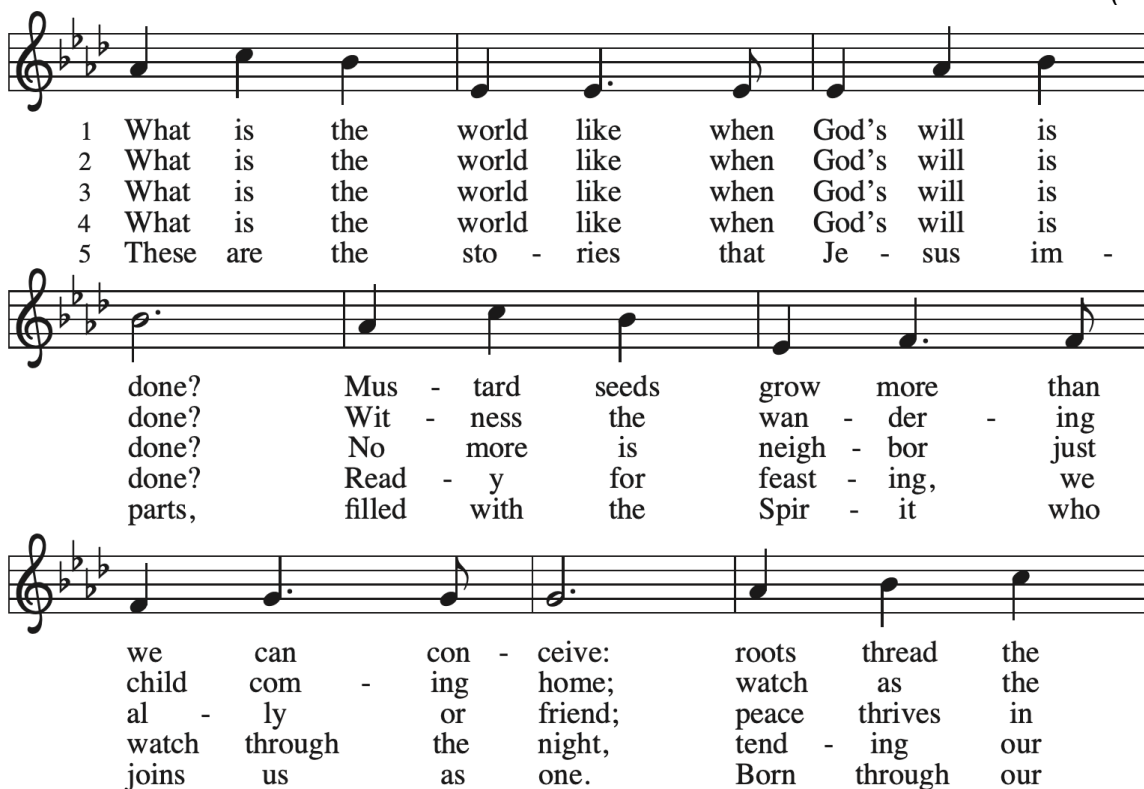
#### BLESSING

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,  
✠ one God,  
bless, heal, and hold you  
today and always.  
**Amen.**

#### SENDING HYMN

##### “What Is the World Like”

ACS 1047 (One License)



1 What is the world like when God's will is  
2 What is the world like when God's will is  
3 What is the world like when God's will is  
4 What is the world like when God's will is  
5 These are the sto - ries that Je - sus im -

done? Mus - tard seeds grow more than  
done? Wit - ness the wan - der - ing  
done? No more is neigh - bor just  
done? Read - y for feast - ing, we  
parts, filled with the Spir - it who

we can con - ceive: roots thread the  
child com - ing home; watch as the  
al - ly or friend; peace thrives in  
watch through the night, tend - ing our  
joins us as one. Born through our



soil; branch - es reach for the sun.  
 par - ent breaks in - to a run.  
 plac - es where once there was none.  
 lamps till the new day's be - gun.  
 voic - es, our hands, and our hearts,

This is how God moves us each to be - lieve.  
 This is how God longs for us when we roam.  
 This is how God works when ri - val - ries end.  
 This is how God read - ies us for the light.  
 this is a new world where God's will is done.

## DISMISSAL

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

**Thanks be to God.**

## CLOSING

## MUSIC

“Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”

setting, Jacob B. Weber (Augsburg Fortress)



### **Worship Team**

A/V Team: Bill Nattress

Communion Assistants: Michelle Anderson, Sonia Brzezinski, Sheri Conover, Doug Noe, Mary Noe

Greeters: Bill Kreznor, Nancy Kreznor

Reader: Paul Lockwood

Ushers: Faith Metze, Beth Miller,

Children's Sermon: Brent Filetti

Altar Guild: Cindy Meyer, Janette Hess, Kristy Nellessen, Grace & Tim Nellessen

Musicians: Jan Burns

Lead Pastor: Pastor Amanda Bergstrom

### **Presence Light Sponsor:**

In honor of our daughters Kim & Tracie's birthdays; given by Ken & Kathy Zank.

### **Bulletin Sponsors:**

In honor of our daughters Kim & Tracie's birthdays; given by Ken & Kathy Zank.

In honor of Mark's Birthday; given by Beth Miller.

Thank you for sharing time to hear God's word and pray together. A video recording of worship will be posted to Grace's website later in the day. You are welcome to join Grace Lutheran Church's Facebook group for news & ministry opportunities. Peace be with you as you go forth to share God's grace.



From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS002675. New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission. Other liturgy and song used by permission OneLicense.net © Church Anew. Used with Permission #A-704477 and CCLI License #546408.



## **MAHJONG GAME NIGHT**

EVERY 2<sup>ND</sup> & 4<sup>TH</sup> TUESDAY

6:30PM-8:00PM

SIGN UP ONLINE OR WITH THE OFFICE



*A Sincere Thanks to our Worship Volunteers!*